

Technical Bulletin for N.C. General Stormwater Permit NCG120000

Technical Bulletin for NCG120000, Landfills

Last Revised 10/25/2012

What is regulated by this General Permit?

This General Permit <u>regulates stormwater discharges</u> from landfills (including construction and demolition landfills) and associated on-site activities.

What does my DWQ stormwater permit require me to do?

- ✓ Implement your approved Sedimentation and Erosion Control Plan (Part II, Section A).
- ✓ Implement your solid waste permit from the Division of Waste Management (Part II, Section A).
- ✓ Install secondary containment for bulk storage of liquids, including petroleum products (Part II, Section A).
- ✓ Conduct semi-annual testing of the stormwater discharges, and report results to DWQ (Part II Sections B and C).
- ✓ Conduct semi-annual visual monitoring of stormwater discharge flows for the characteristics listed in the permit, and keep the records of the visual monitoring on your site (Part II, Section D).
- ✓ Inspect your sediment and erosion control measures and your stormwater control measures weekly, and after every 1/2" rain. Keep the records of the inspections on your site (Part II, Section D).
- ✓ Respond to monitoring results that exceed the numerical benchmarks with management actions to reduce the level of pollutants in the stormwater discharges. Note that the numerical benchmarks should be considered as 'action levels', rather than permit limits, and so would not alone generate permit violations. (Part II, Sections B, C, and D).

Why?

- √ The General Permit seeks to reduce pollution in rainfall runoff from landfills by requiring site managers to be aware of, and to reduce, contamination in stormwater runoff.
- ✓ Federal and state laws and water regulations require the reduction of pollution in stormwater from landfills.
- ✓ Those laws and regulations reflect the public's support for clean natural waters in our state and nation.

What has changed since the last renewal in 2007?

- Although they were previously subject to water quality regulation according to federal rule, the General Permit now specifically clarifies that construction and demolition landfills may be regulated by this permit.
- The permittee may now sample discharges from any *measureable* storm event, rather than from a *representative* event. This change should make it easier to obtain a sample from a qualifying rain event.
- The permit text now clarifies that failure to sample due to adverse weather, or due to no discharge during the normal monitoring period, may be excused. However, the permit now provides that additional monthly monitoring for unexcused failures to monitor may be required by DWQ.
- The permit now provides that sampling is not required outside of the facility's normal operating hours.
- Visual monitoring of the discharge flows for the characteristics listed in the permit has been reduced in frequency from weekly to semi-annual. However, inspections of the sedimentation and erosion control measures have been retained as a weekly obligation.
- The permit text now clarifies that if DWQ relieves the permittee from monthly monitoring under Tier 2, that relief would continue into subsequent permit renewals, unless DWQ's relief letter provides otherwise.
- Vehicle Maintenance Areas (VMA) will be monitored for Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) rather than Oil & Grease (O&G).
- VMA monitoring is now triggered by the total oil usage for motor oil *plus hydraulic oil*. The trigger remains at a total of 55 gallons per month, average.
- A lower TSS benchmark of 50 mg/L applies for discharges to especially protected water classifications.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to monitor all outfalls?

Yes. However, you may request ROS (Representative Outfall Status). If ROS is approved, this status allows analytical monitoring at fewer outfalls. To request ROS, submit a ROS Request Form SWU-ROS (from our website) to the DWQ Regional Office.

What if I can't collect a stormwater discharge in 30 minutes?

When distances separate multiple outfalls and preclude collection within 30 minutes of each discharge event, begin collection within 30 minutes and then continue until all outfalls are sampled. Documentation of the site circumstances must be kept with the sampling records on site.

Can I take more samples than is required by my permit?

Yes. The permittee may take multiple samples at any time while under permit coverage. The permittee may find the extra sampling useful to quickly identify causes of benchmark exceedances. All sampling for the permit parameters must be reported to DWQ on the DMR forms.

What if I can't sample because of bad weather?

Adverse weather is dangerous or it may limit access for sampling personnel. Your documentation of adverse weather and the reasons for not sampling must be included in your on-site records. A substitute sample may be taken during the next qualifying storm event.

What if I don't address visual monitoring problems?

If you do not respond to problems seen in visual monitoring, DWQ may require that you increase the visual monitoring frequency, apply for an individual permit, implement in-stream monitoring, install or modify structural stormwater controls, or implement other controls.

What if I forget to monitor?

DWQ may require monthly monitoring for a specified time period.

Why did you replace Oil & Grease with TPH in VM areas?

The TPH test only targets chemicals derived from crude oil. The Oil & Grease (O&G) test recovers fats from animal & vegetable sources and chemicals from crude oil. Because TPH is more specific, it is a better parameter for vehicle maintenance areas. The TPH method we are specifying is EPA 1664A (SGT-HEM). It is important to note that DWQ is **not** specifying the more expensive Gas Chromatograph (GC) TPH method. DWQ found lab costs for EPA 1664A (SGT-HEM) to be comparable to O&G test costs. To test these parameters in stormwater, labs must perform this test in accordance with EPA procedures, but do not need to be certified. Note: A lower benchmark applies for TPH: 15 mg/l (not 30 mg/l).

Why are there two benchmark values for TSS?

The 100 mg/L benchmark applies to most rivers, lakes, and creeks in North Carolina. However, some other waters must receive special protection under North Carolina water quality rules, and in this permit discharges to them are subject to the more protective benchmark of 50 mg/L. Those waters classified as Trout Waters, High Quality Waters, Outstanding Resource Waters, and Primary Nursery Areas receive this extra protection.

Where and when do I send the monitoring reports?

See your permit text, Part III, Section E.

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Division of Water Quality (DWQ) Offices:

Who can help me?

Asheville Office	(828) 296-4500
Fayetteville Office	(910) 433-3300
Mooresville Office	(704) 663-1699
Raleigh Office	(919) 791-4200

Must I use a North Carolina certified laboratory?

No. North Carolina water quality rules do not require that analyses of stormwater be accomplished by a certified facility. *Please note however, federal rules at 40CFR136 do require that testing for this permit be by EPA-approved lab methods.* Analysis by a North Carolina certified lab is often the easiest way to insure compliance with federal rules.

Note that pH is a special case, and must be measured within 15 minutes of the sample recovery. You must either train on-site staff to conduct pH testing, or contract with commercial services to test pH in accordance with EPA field testing methods.

Who inspects me, and for what?

Staff from the DWQ Regional Offices shown below will inspect your facility. They will typically ask to see your Sedimentation and Erosion Control Plan to see that it is being fully implemented. They will typically ask to see your recent monitoring results. They will typically tour the facility with a focus on the stormwater discharge outfalls and on your general housekeeping as a way to assess the potential for polluted stormwater discharges. Our staff will always follow up their Compliance Evaluation Inspection with a summary letter to you, restating their findings and, if necessary indicating whether enforcement action will be considered in response to those findings.

DWQ Stormwater Permitting Unit: http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ws/su